



# YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION



## Public Power Week and Public Natural Gas Week Celebrated in October

The month of October begins every year celebrating Public Power Week and Public Natural Gas Week. Why do we celebrate? What are the advantages to public power and public natural gas?

During the early 1900's, North Carolina cities were growing quickly. Areas that were little more than a crossroads developed into towns, with citizens who needed electric service. North Carolina's investor-owned utilities were sometimes unwilling to invest in infrastructure to run power lines to outlying areas, so North Carolina's cities and towns stepped in and began to invest in electric transmission to serve North Carolina citizens.

Through the years, there has been tremendous growth in the electric industry. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Public Power Week. More than 70 towns in North Carolina provide safe and reliable power to their citizens and industry. Rocky Mount has been providing reliable electric service for over 100 years.

Publicly owned and not-for-profit electric and natural gas systems are directly accountable to the citizens they serve. These systems benefit the community by providing local control, competitive costs, and top-notch customer service. The employees live in the communities they serve and are readily available to respond to problems. Not only are they accountable to their employer but also to their friends and neighbors. Public power and natural gas employees also reinvest their earnings into their community. Public utility systems can play a valuable role in helping a community broaden its tax base and in turn improve the local economy and jobs situation.

## BEAT THE PEAK

"Peak" or "Peak Demand" is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

### Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

### Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

### Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

**There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.**

**Call 972-1283 for more information .  
Start your savings now!**



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## Electric vs. Natural Gas vs. Propane

### Fuel Choices....You Decide

Equipment	Annual Electric Cost	Annual Natural Gas Cost	Annual Propane Cost
Med (40-49 gal) water heater	\$320.00	\$286.00	\$324.00
Heat Pump	\$2,096.00		
Natural Gas furnace w/ AC		\$2,782.00	
Propane furnace			\$3,047.00
Range-cooktop, burner	\$52.00	\$63.00	\$103.00
Clothes Dryer	\$104.00	\$77.00	\$130.00

\* Based on \$0.115/kwh for electric, \$1.81530 per therm for natural gas, and \$2.20 per gallon of propane

## FAQS.....Frequently Asked Questions Insulation and Weatherization

**Q.** What does the term "R-value" mean?

**A.** R-value is a measure of how well a material resists the passage of heat. The higher the R-value the more effective insulation is in keeping the home warm in winter and cool in summer. Insulation should always be judged by R-value rather than inches, as different insulation materials have different R-values per inch of thickness.

**Q.** How much insulation should I have in my attic?

**A.** Attics should be insulated to R-38 whenever possible.

**Q.** If I install more insulation in my attic, what type should I use?

**A.** Most homeowners find it easiest to use batt insulation. Always use unfaced batts, as the paper of foil vapor retarder can trap water vapor in the original insulation, causing moisture problems. If possible, install the new insulation perpendicular to the attic floor joists to reduce heat loss through the joists. Loose fiberglass or cellulose can also be used, by pouring it and leveling it with a board or other implement.

**Q.** If I install more insulation in my walls, what type should I use?

**A.** Exterior walls in new homes should be insulated to R-15 or higher. In existing homes, insulation can be blown into uninsulated walls. Have a qualified contractor check the walls and determine the feasibility of blowing in insulation.

**Q.** How much insulation should I have under my floor?

**A.** Floors over unheated crawlspaces or basements should be insulated to R-19, while floors over open air (such as overhangs) should be insulated to R-30 if possible. If your home has a basement containing your heating system or other sources of heat, you should insulate the basement walls to R-11, rather than insulating the floor above.

**Q.** My home is built on a slab - is there a way to insulate my floors?

**A.** With slab construction, there is no way to insulate under the floor. In cold climates, new homes typically have the perimeter of the slab insulated to several feet below ground level. This can also be done in an existing home, but the cost and difficulty of trenching around the perimeter usually makes it impractical. In warmer climates, slab perimeter insulation is not considered cost-effective, and in locations where termites are a concern, it is not recommended as the insulation can provide a path for termites to enter the structure.

**Q.** Is it better to insulate the attic floor, the roof, or both?

**A.** Unless you are finishing the attic for living space, you should insulate the attic floor to contain the heat within the living space.